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Report of the Secretary-General

the Afro-Asian Writers'

bureau

Read by D. Manuweera

From: China Reconstructs, September, 1966.

Dear colleagues,

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As you know, we have called this Emergency Meeting mainly to fulfil a bounden duty cast upon us, the writers, the progressive writers, of Africa and Asia, that is, to render our resolute support to the heroic people of Vietnam in the life-and-death struggle they are waging against the U.S. imperialists to liberate the South, defend the North and reunify their motherland.

The brave struggle of the people of Vietnam against the U.S. aggressors has, today, become the focus of attention of all the anti-imperialist peoples and forces in the world, particularly in Asia and Africa. Flagrantly violating the Geneva Agreements, totally ignoring the world-wide condemnation and completely disregarding all respect for sovereignty and independence, the U.S. imperialists have aroused the hatred and indignation of not only the Vietnamese people, but of all the peoples of the world, who love emancipation, who love freedom, who love peace.

Faced with a hopeless dilemma, faced with a people who are determined to fight on until their land is liberated, the U.S. imperialists have launched a mindless escalation of their aggressive war in south Vietnam. They have already shipped into it more than 275,000 aggressive troops and have recruited their flunkeys, the governments of the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pak Jung Hi clique, to supply more cannon-fodder or to accelerate and strengthen their material co-operation in their aggression.

This new and futile escalation of its war to subdue the Vietnamese people has, on the one hand, further proven that U.S. imperialism is the enemy Number One of all the progressive and peace-loving peoples of the world, while, on the other, it has shown that U.S. imperialism has been thrown into a desperate position in south Vietnam. It has, on the one hand, proven that U.S. imperialism would go to any length to turn the tide against it in south Vietnam. while, on the other, it has shown that the determination of the Vietnamese people to resist the U.S. aggressors is becoming deeper and stronger. It has, on the one hand, proven that U.S. imperialism would. not change its bellicose nature until completely defeated, while, on the other, it has shown that it is men, and not weapons, that constitute the decisive factor in a battle for freedom. The more they escalate

their war, the nearer the U.S. imperialists draw themselves to their doom in Vietnam. The more they escalate their war, the greater are the magnificent victories scored by the valiant Vietnamese people. No savageries of any kind can weaken the iron will of the south Vietnamese people to fight until final victory is achieved.

Dear colleagues, what have the brilliant victories achieved by the heroic south Vietnamese people shown us? What lesson have they given to the world? The unparalleled victories scored by the people of south Vietnam have proved to the world that U.S. imperialism is not impossible to be defeated. Vietnam has distinctly demonstrated that arrows, matchets and bamboo spikes, in the hands of freedomloving, revolutionary people, are much more powerful than the bombs, bullets and missiles of the imperialists. Vietnam has amply shown us that no weapons and no troops of imperialism can ever besiege and topple the mighty bastion of a people fighting for their national liberation. And it is in Vietnam we have seen that armed struggle is the one and only method of dealing with all imperialists, colonialists and neo-colonialists, headed by the U.S.

In a desperate bid to get out of the blind alley into which they have led themselves in south Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have escalated their war of aggression into the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and are even threatening China. They are wantonly bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, unscrupulously encroaching on its territory and crudely provoking it. By its despicable and barbarous aggression against the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, U.S. imperialism hopes to intimidate and force them into submission. It hopes to weaken the fighting capacity of the heroic north Vietnamese people. But the courageous people of north Vietnam, who are steeled in struggle, have dealt resounding blows at the aggressors, teaching them the universal truth that a revolutionary people can never be intimidated or subjugated by them or any brand of imperialists, no matter what weapons they use. We fully endorse all measures adopted by the north Vietnamese people to safeguard their sovereignty and independence. The recent intruding into the territory of the People's Republic of China by the U.S. aggressor planes and shooting down of a nese plane that was on a training flight, is clear proof of the expansion of the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam to other territories. We severely condemn this wanton provocative act of U.S. imperialism against the People's Republic of China. And we totally approve the firm stand taken by the

This is an abridged version of the report submitted by the Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Writers' Bureau, Itame Deshapriya Senanayake. It was read by his representative, D. Manuweera, to the plenary session of the Afro-Asian Writers' Emergency Meeting on June 27, 1966.